ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for ascertaining resource requirements print jobs. There are at least two significant features of the invention. A first feature results from a provision of a system and method for segmenting the document to provide a sample window. A RIP (Raster Image Processing) analysis is performed with respect to the sample to determine a ratio of laser on and laser off times for same. On the basis of the RIP analysis with respect to the sample data, the requirements of the entire document are estimated. The resource requirements of the entire job are then estimated, page by page, in a similar manner and compared to a resource (e.g. toner) availability data provided by the printer. If adequate resources are available, the job is printed. If adequate resources are not available, a message is provided to the user or, the printer is automatically supplied with additional resources. The second feature results from a provision of a system and method for performing a RIP analysis of the entire document (or job) at a first low level of resolution (e.g. 50 dots per inch) and comparing the result to printer resource data. If adequate resources are available, the job is printed. Actual resource consumption data is then used to improve on future estimates. If adequate resources are not available, a message is provided to the user or the printer is automatically supplied with additional resources. The method embodied in each system is less computationally intensive and substantially faster than the conventional technique. In addition, the methods may be used in combination for further improvements in speed and further reductions in computational intensity.